

Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition Minutes 10-27-2021

Attendance: *Debi Thiesenhusen & Irene Schuder- The Monroe Group; Regina Estrada- Blessings in a Backpack; Michael Egly & Bria Thomas- Food Pantry of Waukesha County; Jill Herz, Katy Maas, & Jen Whitty- UW-Madison Extension; Caroline Gomez-Tom- Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers; Mike Glasgow & Katie Riemenschneider- Aging and Disability Resource Center; Dawn Bradshaw- Community Action Coalition of South Central WI; Jennifer Waltz- Sussex Outreach Services; Judith Amorsen & Shannon Fogle- Eras Senior Network; Shanna Krause, La Casa de Esperanza; Christy Bond- Head Start; Terri Blazek- St Vincent de Paul*

Provided Updates to email list: *New Berlin Food Pantry; Lisa Topp- WIC*

WCNC Updates & Announcements:

This is Mike Glasgow's final meeting as WCNC chair. Michael Egly from Food Pantry of Waukesha County will be the new Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition chair going forward. Thank you to Mike Glasgow for serving as the coalition coleader/chair for the last 4 years! Thank you Michael Egly for stepping up to this role.

Mike Glasgow: The goal is to meet in person again for future meetings, in 2022. Could consider a hybrid model: some virtual, some in person? In the past, this coalition has worked on some bigger projects as a group. A giant project is probably not feasible, but we talked about doing 1-2 smaller projects throughout the year supporting one another. Could revisit this in the new year.

Agency Updates:

Monroe Group, Irene Schuder: have been holding food/nutrition sessions for Waukesha seniors (soup making) surprised and pleased at the numbers they had. **Monroe Group, Debi Thiesenhusen:** Trying to do more on-site programming; can now do programming in the community room. Reaching out to wellness center on Sunset to connect for wellness services such as massage. Have new property manager. Apartments are filled in Wisconsin; 1 vacancy in Waukesha, if you know anyone. Continuing stockboxes from Waukesha Food Pantry.

Blessings in a Backpack, Regina Estrada: Held fundraiser on October 14 which was successful- 250 people. Feeding 3600 kids starting this school year, including schools in Harland, Wales, Oconomowoc, Sussex, Waukesha. Due to supply chain issues, running into some problems getting food, so had emergency bag fill. Sysco now on track to deliver.

Jen Whitty, UW- Madison Extension Health & Well Being: Currently holding virtual educational sessions, hoping to transition to in-person in January. Holding Strong Bodies strength training classes- always looking to recruit volunteers. If you have a site where seniors congregate and you are interested, let Jen know. Also working on programs for adults with intellectual disabilities in group homes and other local agencies.

Shanna Krause, La Casa de Esperanza: Shana is home-based educator at La Casa de Esperanza. Now they are currently back to doing in-person, home-based visits. Can do virtual if requested. Willing to share info about Strong Bodies with colleagues.

Jennifer Waltz, Sussex Outreach Services: Holding a warm winter gear drive for adults and kids- collecting thru November 1st. Doing Thanksgiving distribution on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. St. James Church Christmas event will be in person on the Saturday before Christmas.

Michael Egly, Food Pantry of Waukesha County: Thanks to Mike for leading us for the past several years. Looking forward to being chair of coalition. Exciting new additions to Waukesha Food Pantry team: Bria Thomas

is the new FoodShare Outreach Assistant. Hired an Americorps Vista, who will work on needs assessments and capacity building in the community. Currently hiring a client services associate, a full-time position. Send resume and cover letter to Michael (details found on Milwaukee jobs.com). Service continues outdoors; working on plans to return indoors, hopefully before winter. Experiencing supply chain issues for equipment. Providing nonperishable holiday food items from November 11th until Thanksgiving. Closed for 4-day weekend over Thanksgiving. Providing stock box delivery through Doordash, a monthly distribution for seniors 60 and older. Looking for more seniors to sign up; sign up form is on website. Holding a virtual fundraising event Thursday the 28th at 7pm. Anyone can join at waukeshafoodpantry.org/virtual2021. **Bria Thomas, Food Pantry of Waukesha County:** Bria is the new Foodshare Outreach Assistant for Food Pantry of Waukesha County, helping people with foodshare application, renewal. Looking forward to learning how to better serve the community and help people receive benefits.

Shannon Fogle, Eras Senior Network: Providing services to seniors with disabilities, including transportation, grocery shopping, assisting with friendly phone calls. Encouraging masks, distancing, etc. Have some clients that receive transportation to the food pantry to pick up groceries and stock box. **Judith Amorsen, Eras Senior Network:** Planning for holiday giving; last year sent out 900 holiday gifts to low income and isolated seniors. Will be doing this again this year.

Katy Maas, UW-Madison Extension FoodWise: Katy is FoodWise Teaching Coordinator. FoodWise team consists of 3 other educators. Also hiring a new educator. Have been back in the office since July; virtual prior to that point. Teaching in schools- Whittier, Heyer, La Casa, Hadfield, Head Start, afterschool programs. Also teaching adult programs at WCTC (virtual), Mental Health center, and will be starting series at Juno House. **Jill Herz, UW-Madison Extension FoodWise:** Hiring a bilingual (Spanish) nutrition educator, full time. Position closes November 5th. Will share to WCNC email list; please share broadly. Always looking for groups of parents to participate in Eating Smart & Being Active program (9 lessons), as well as a new program called Around the Table nourishing families (6 lessons). If you serve parents and are interested in this programming, please reach out.

Caroline Gomez-Tom, Sixteenth St Community Health Centers: 309 North Street in Waukesha. Serve all, regardless of ability to pay. Comprehensive health care including behavioral health. Still doing covid testing, covid vaccinations and will be starting flu vaccinations. Testing is for those who want to become patients.

Dawn Bradshaw, Community Action Coalition for South Central WI: Starting Winter Glow event (renamed from Koats for Kids). Providing winter gear, vaccination stations, pop up pantry and more. At WCTC Nov 13th 1-7pm. Currently looking for help- two warehouse positions available on website- would involve traveling from Dane County to Waukesha County transporting food.

Christy Bond, Waukesha County Head Start: free preschool for low-income kids. School has been in person. As of this week they are at full enrollment, which is exciting- weren't sure they would be. Still taking applications for kids to be on the wait list. If you know any would be happy to take them.

Terri Blazek, St Vincent de Paul: Terri is the new Waukesha council president of St. Vincent de Paul. Oversees ministries: mentorship, stores, different Waukesha County locations. Some have small food pantries- most stayed open during pandemic, with some changes to cleaning schedule, distribution. Numbers have been down, starting to see an increase lately. Provided a summer bag lunch program at Saratoga in Waukesha. Hard to predict numbers, ranging from 20-200. Planning to talk to schools to get a better handle on things for next year; pandemic was an unusual year. St Charles parish in Hartland had a monthly senior meal program that had discontinued- now finally bringing it back. Let Terri know if you have programs to share with those seniors.

Katie Riemenschneider, ADRC: Powerful Tools for Caregivers classes postponed by 1 week. Free at Harland library- Katie will send info to WCNC list. This is specifically for caregivers- a self-care workshop that helps with managing stress while caring for a family member, friend, older adult.

Mike Glasgow, ADRC: Continuing Meals on Wheels at 7 sites. Numbers consistent. On Monday November 15, will be opening in person at Brookfield, Menomonee Falls, Sussex, and Oconomowoc. Will work with site managers to develop plan for safety, cleaning, sanitizing. May open other sites after that; goal is to continue to open sites. The federal program has now allowed carryout meals; previously had to stay for the meal. This will give seniors another option, ensure mental health and still provide nutrition.

Emailed Updates:

New Berlin Food Pantry: We are preparing for the holidays - will have turkey and fixing bags to hand out in November. Looking forward to the high school DECA groups to bring in their trick or treat food drive collections. Client count has been stable.

Lisa Topp, WIC: A new WIC fruit and vegetable cash value amount increase has been approved from Nov 1 through Dec 31, 2021. The amounts have been increased as follows:

- \$24 – children
- \$43 – pregnant, postpartum, and some breastfeeding women
- \$47 – fully and mostly breastfeeding women
- \$70.50 – for fully breastfeeding multiples
- With the most recent extension of the public health emergency declaration for COVID-19, WIC flexibilities will remain in place now through at least **mid-April 2022**.
- Recent retirement of Karen Horch, DTR who has been with our agency for 18 years. New hire, Kim Schnabel begins Friday, Oct. 29th. Kim has almost 19 years of WIC experience. She most recently worked for the county with the COVID response.
- WIC is partnering with Book Ahead, Inc., a non-profit organization, to distribute age-appropriate books to children that come onsite for WIC services. Their mission is to help improve the literacy and positive parent/child interaction for low income children between the ages of birth – 5 years old. <https://www.abookahead.org/homeMission>
- The WIC staff have engaged in their own Fit Family goals to have greater appreciation for and improved knowledge of this grant program's activities.
- Families have until the end of the month to use their Senior and WIC FMNP...may be a little more challenging to find approved farmers at this time of the year.
- Although there have been significant recalls of Lead II Analyzer test kits, PH/WIC has been able to maintain testing. The kits we currently have were not recalled.
- Dayanna (BF Peer) is hosting a pumpkin carving contest through the WIC SE Region Breastfeeding Facebook Support Group, with a breastfeeding theme to raise awareness.

Next meeting: February 2022: More info to come.

If you have any info, brochures, etc. to send to the WCNC email list, please share with Jill:

jill.herz@wisc.edu